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**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
August 12, 1997**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, August 12, 1997, in the Board Room at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present: Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Jeff Francell, Rocky Medrano, Vice Chair, Phil Friday, Dewayne Naumann, Mary K. Isaacs.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Jack Anderson, Mary Ybarbo.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 22, 1997, meeting were approved.

Jeff Francell was introduced as the new Parks Board Member and in turn each present member introduced themselves.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Robert Donley, President of East Town Lake Citizens Neighborhood Association, approached the board about traffic problems and large crowds when events are scheduled at Fiesta Gardens. It was suggested that he put a report together for a presentation at a future board meeting. Also, that he get in contact with the neighborhood associations bordering Auditorium Shores and find out how traffic and noise issues are handled when large events are scheduled.

Jesus E. Segovia, member of East Town Lake Citizens Neighborhood Association, also approached the board about parking problems and traffic congestion at Fiesta Gardens. He distributed pictures showing cars illegally parked in alleys, parking on parkland, and other problems associated with events held at Fiesta Gardens. Mr. Segovia lives at 2010 Bergman Avenue and stated his home was being threatened by this noise and congestion.

Mike Librik, member of the Bicycle Advisory Council, approached the board about extending the Johnson Creek Hike & Bike Trail thru Westenfield Park to Sharon Lane. He was referred to the Planning, Design and Construction Division of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Tommy Eden, member of the Bicycle Advisory Council, approached the board about creating a bicycle lane thru Zilker Park. He, too, was referred to the Planning, Design and Construction Division with a possibility of giving a presentation to the Land and Facilities Committee.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The board previewed a CD-Rom presentation of the Edwards Aquifer and Barton Springs Pool which was developed by Marshall Frech, Director of the Texas Environmental Center. Mr. Frech hopes to sell each CD for \$20.00 with a percentage of the profits donated to the Splash Exhibit. He also asked if the first 1,000 CDs sold could include free swim passes at Barton Springs Pool. The multimedia production includes all the information available about the history and present times of the aquifer and pool.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Make a Recommendation to the City Council on the Proposed State Theater Contract

Mary K. Isaacs informed the board the funds to renovate the State Theater have been available since voter approval in 1985 but the project has not been completed. Land and Facilities Committee met and discussed the situation but for lack of a quorum no recommendation was made. Ms. Isaacs feels changes need to be made in the contract. The three possibilities available are (1) to approve the expenditure of these funds as outlined in the memo from Toby Futrell, (2) approve the expenditure of the funds with conditions including the term of contract with the city would be a reasonable length of time, probably 20 years, (that usually is the length of the time the city pays on bonds for projects of this type (if the city incurs 20 years of debt, it should get 20 years of a public service from the facility). The contract does allow city to take ownership if State should default on the agreement, but no provision for what would happen to the facility if they should change use. If approval is given to the contract provision that if they sell the theater or change use, the facility will revert to the city, (3) to pay off the bond. The board discussed the three possibilities. The building was assessed at a negative value in previous years. It was appraised at \$420,000 and the purchase price was \$375,000. The mortgage debt stands at approximately \$290,000. In 1991 Ordinance No. 910613-K was passed by council which allocated \$2M of available bond proceeds to the State Theater project with the condition that the facility be owned by the City. There was discussion about the wording of the original proposition no. 2 in 1985 which read "the issuance of \$20,285,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds for construction of a publicly-owned art museum on donated land downtown and the renovation of performing arts facilities" and the later bond election in August 1992 which read "authorizing expenditure for purchasing, constructing, improving, equipping and renovating facilities for cultural arts or performing arts or both, and acquiring land and interest in land and property necessary, therefore, of \$1,968,132 unexpended proceeds of bonds previously issued pursuant to proposition no. 2 approved by the voters on January 19, 1985 (such bonds having been originally issued for the renovation of performing arts facilities)."

Phil Friday made a motion that the Parks Board recommend the proposal with the following conditions: that the City negotiate a longer term for the master lease and a longer term for the public use requirements and the sub lease between Live Oak and the City of Austin be terminable in the event of bankruptcy or other failure of performance by Live Oak Theater be grounds for cancellation. It was seconded by Elaine Carter.

After further discussion Mary K. Isaacs offered a substitute motion that the Parks Board recommends the city defease the bond, however, if the council should vote to proceed with this expenditure, then (1) a minimum 20 year term, (2) a conditional overlay of zoning so the building will continue as theater space, (3) the sub-lease between Live Oak and the City of Austin be terminable in the event of bankruptcy or other failure of performance to include change of use or change of ownership and (4) that the city lease be extended to the Reynolds Penland Building. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. The vote in favor was 5-2 (Cruz-Torres, Naumann, Francell, Castleberry, Isaacs) (Friday, Carter)

Rocky Medrano left at 8:15 p.m.

Appointment of a Parks Board Member to the Downtown Commission

Elaine Carter was appointed the Parks Board representative to the Downtown Commission.

Mary K. Isaacs left at 9:05 p.m.

Addendum: Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding the Lake Austin, Town Lake and Decker Lake Boating Study and Management Plan

At a previous board meeting Dewayne Naumann had given a detailed presentation on the Basin Report, a study done by city staff on the issues affecting Lake Austin, Town Lake and Decker Lake. Mr. Naumann felt there was a consensus of support with one amendment to include the issue of swimmers, more specifically concentrated around the area at Lake Austin. The board had agreed to add the amendment and send it to council. The council presentation has not yet been done. Mr. Naumann made a motion that the board make a presentation of the Lake Study and Management Plan proposal with its options in funding performance as it was submitted to the board at the July 8, 1997, meeting. Seconded by Elaine Carter. The vote in favor was 4-0-2 (Cruz-Torres, Naumann, Carter, Castleberry) (Friday, Francell)

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A tentative date of Saturday, October 4, 1997, at Reicher Ranch would be the annual board retreat. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee will meet Monday, August 18, 1997.
Land & Facilities will meet Tuesday, August 19, 1997.
Navigation Committee has not yet put together a report on the 360 issue.
Concession Committee report will be available in October.

H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (not for action)

It was suggested that the Downtown Commission and Airport Advisory Commission be listed under Committee Reports in the future.

I. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.